

# canadian camping

Official Publication  
Publication Officielle

The Canadian Camping Association  
L'Association des Camps du Canada

Vol. 29  
No. 4

102 Eglinton Ave., E., Suite 203

Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E1

June 1977

## OUR NEW LOGO!!



We're proud of our new Logo and grateful to Daphne Kaye of Camp Voyageur, South River, Ontario for giving us such a simple but effective design. (Picture on page 2) Look for the logo on letter-head, brochures and badges right across the country as our Public Relations and Promotion Committee goes into action.

## Cross Canada Checkup

### Québec

Abbe Robert Maisonneuve is the new President of the A.C.Q. - Q.C.A. Provincial Board. The Vice-Presidents are the Presidents of the English and French Sections, respectively. Mr. Derek Walsh begins the second year of a two year term, while Abbe Paul Belanger will combine the Presidency of the French Section with his position as Vice-President of the C.C.A. M. Rosaire Corbin is the Chairman of the French Language Camping Committee.

### New Brunswick

Mr. Robert Cameron is the newly elected President of the New Brunswick Camping Association. He will continue to chair the Outdoor Education Committee

(cont. on page 2)

of the C.C.A. The N.B.C.A. will be hosting the C.C.A. Board Meeting in Moncton, Nov. 4th and 5th, in conjunction with their Fall Workshop on the 5th and 6th.

### Saskatchewan

Our sympathy is extended to President John Boutin as well as the many others involved with John Bosco Camp. The whole camp was lost in the early spring forest fires that raged across Northern Saskatchewan.

### British Columbia

Mr. Lorne Bowering is the chairman of the newly formed Professional Development Committee (formerly Standards) of the C.C.A. Mr. John Hasell remains as President of the B.C.C.A. and Mr. Grant McKeen continues to be its Provincial Representative to C.C.A.



Mrs. Kaye with her award winning logo.

### Manitoba

Mr. Punch Jackson, President and Chairman of the C.C.A. Publications Committee announces that a new illustrated catalogue of C.C.A. Publications is available from the M.C.A. Box 241, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

### Ontario

Their 10th Annual Counsellor Conference attracted over 500 delegates (65 different agencies and camps represented) at the day long event which included 27 sessions for day camp and residential counsellors.

### In Brief .....

Mrs. Barbara Taylor was re-elected President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Camping Association.... Mr. George Matthews continues as President of the Nova Scotia Camping Association. Mr. Gary Luthy is in his first term of office with the Alberta C.A.

### C.C.A.'S NEW EXECUTIVE

<u>President:</u>	Jack Pearse
<u>Past-President:</u>	Ron Johnstone
<u>Vice-President:</u>	Paul Belanger
<u>Secretary:</u>	Eileen Mayotte
<u>Treasurer:</u>	George Simonett

The new Executive can best be reached through the C.C.A. office in Toronto.

### AMERICAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION

A Memorial Service was held on May 13th, for Elmer Ott. Mr. Ott, who died on May 7th was a long-time member of the A.C.A. and made many valuable contributions to camping. He was the author of So You Want to Be a Camp Counsellor. Those who knew Mr. Ott are invited to make contributions to a memorial in his name. c/o A.C.A. Bradford Woods, Martinsville, Indiana, USA 46151.

# Editorial

Every tribe has its great ones. Those who lead by example, those who create a will and a conviction in others to carry on; those who, without the benefits of superior ability, but who have a generous amount of common sense can pass along to others a set of values which will make this country a better place in which to live.

This summer thousands of young Canadian have made a commitment - a commitment to give their counsel and their skill to others younger than they. These are our dreamers - our idealists - our future leaders. They, in turn, look to their leaders for wise counsel, guidance and support. To all of us there is a challenge - a privilege and a responsibility.

Each time we stand up for an ideal, or act to improve the lot of others, or strike out against injustice, we send forth tiny ripples of hope and, crossing others from a thousand different centres of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can break down the strongest walls of prejudice and pessimism and add to the quality and joy of life for our family of man.

"Some see things as they are and ask 'Why?' Let us dream things that never were and say, 'Why not?'"

## Have you Something to Say?

We welcome unsolicited articles, letters of comment and requests for topics of particular interest to you. If you send us an article, please have it clearly typewritten. Copies will not be returned because they may be used in future issues.

"The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in others the conviction and will to carry on... the genius of a good leader is to leave behind him a situation which common sense, without the grace of genius, can deal with successfully."

Walter Lippman

# FOODSAVERS

Plastic Bags - save those plastic bags from bread, milk, etc. They are always useful for trips. They can be used to store some foods like flour, sugar or pancake mix (use double bags here) or to help keep the kids' kits dry.

Save on milk - Mix up powdered milk and cool (18-24 hours is best) then mix half 'n half. This gives the kids the milk they need with the taste they like, at a price you might better afford.

Sizing - Don't forget: Every size you go up, you save yourself about 10%. Plan your needs ahead and save a handful.

Scrambled Eggs - Try cooking them in a double boiler. They take longer to cook but have more flavour and keep fresher longer.

Bread Crusts - There are about 24 slices of bread in an average loaf, if you save the crusts, rather than throwing them out, you can make sandwiches from them by placing them sliced side out, then freeze them for later use.

Can you freeze it? Much of what we throw out could, if the habit were established, be frozen more later use. Take a look for yourself, with just a little extra thought, a lot can be saved.

Pop - if you sell pop in cans - you could save money for the campers by selling it in returnable bottles - as well as helping protect our environment.

"Please keep your forks" - is a simple sign you can put up over your kitchen serving area whenever you have pie or a dessert which might require the use of two forks by each person. This saves on having double the number of forks, as well as extra washing in the kitchen.

French Toast - can be frozen and served again. It keeps well and has a good flavour when reheated.

Holy Mackerel! - Canned mackerel costs about half as much as tuna and, mixed half and half with tuna in casseroles or sandwiches adds a good flavour and lowers the cost.

Ice Water - Often kids drink just to cool down and the milk at camp may be cooler then the water. Try buying ice cubes and cooling the water in pitchers beforehand. This gives them the old drink to quench their thirst, but reduces the amount of milk consumed.

"A nation is no better than its woods."  
-W.H. Auden



## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIMPORTANT

Bruno Morawetz, Director  
Camp Ponacka

Every one has had the experience of getting very uptight about something which at a later time proved to be of very little consequence. It is useful to maintain the kind of perspective in which things of lasting importance are given their proper due. I hope to shed some light on this but before I do this I wish to recount a few personal incidents.

Last Sunday, I listened to a former counsellor who had recently graduated with honours in a four year history course at Queen's University. He commented on the fact that when he entered University five years ago a new trend was taking shape, a phenomenon which is sometimes called "Supermarket education". This type of education encourages a student to pick and choose here and there - a bit of sociology, a slice of English, a dash of art appreciation along with a basketful of History. My friend greatly lamented the fact that much of his four year education was a waste of time. He felt that more structure and an orderly progression in his course of studies would have been of far greater benefit.

Let me now take you to my wife's new greenhouse. A friend walked in and expressed great admiration for her full and lush geranium plants. He complained that his geraniums grew tall and spindly and never developed the fullness of hers. She immediately informed him (and me) that a geranium will grow into a beautiful plant only if you keep nipping off the new shoots, just as any fruit tree needs annual pruning.

You may rightly ask, what all this has to do with camping? In an important sense a camp director is like a gardener and his geraniums are children. If a youngster grows without structure, without the occasional pruning, without limits, he may come back from camp, like my friend from Queen's, saying "I did not really learn anything at camp, I accomplished nothing, it was a waste of time."

Many of us spend a good deal of time and money preparing a good soil for our campers to live in - we provide good equipment, physical comforts, leadership, but we often forget that a child, like a geranium, needs the occasional pruning discipline.

Under the influence of Dr. Spock and Freud, parents, educators and camp directors have come to believe that children should never be thwarted. For years we heard it said that punishing a child is self defeating and now we hear calls for the return of the noose and the strap. I am not prepared to enter into a discussion of these contentious issues, but they are signs that many people are beginning to see the danger of unbridled freedom in a richly fertilized soil.

If one is not swinging aimlessly on the pendulum of public opinion, one must have some definite convictions about the important and the unimportant things in life.

I am starting from the assumption that the only thing which is important to a human being is what happens to his inside. The inner life of a man can be referred to by various terms, in English "soul" in Greek "psyche". A camp director who does not gear his camp to the inner life of his campers and staff will not be accomplishing

(cont. on page 6 )

what is most desirable. Most camp directors know that their camp has a special mystique, which makes camp what it is - a place apart, and oasis for thirsty souls. This camp mystique is so intangible that few of us can trace it to its origins. It exists, because in the intimate atmosphere of camp life, the souls of all impinge on each other. In most camps, the director unconsciously gives guidance to his camp mystique, hence it is true (and well known) that a camp is the expression of the individual who runs it. Woe to the camp which yearly changes its directors!

It is well to remember that, just as life consists of minute moments, a camper's fourteen hour day consists of hundreds of minute incidents. His fourteen day sojourn is made up of thousands of small incidents, each of them seemingly unimportant. It is these seemingly unimportant moments that make or break his camping experience. During these thousands of seconds the door to the soul, the senses, are on full alert. How frightfully important that the eyes should see beauty, that the ears hear pleasant sounds and often the sounds of silence. How important the warm touch of a friendly hand, how glorious to the nostrils the smells of nature, not to mention the pleasant taste of wholesome food. One philosopher of this century, Martin Buber, made this a cornerstone of his philosophy "the hallowin of daily life". Many people live under the illusion that one day, at some moment from somewhere will come a great event which will reveal to them the meaning of their life. Such moments rarely come. Far better that we should recognize the holiness of each moment, each lovely sight or sound, that we should taste in each morsel of food the bounty of creation.

In addition to our five senses, the soul stretches forth its antenna and scans the vibrations of its surrounding space. In a good camp the vibrations are mainly good. Where there is honesty and trust and genuineness among people, the "vibes" will be good and the inner life of every person will be soothed and helped. How important are these unimportant things I have just talked about? How much of the director's time is spent on these?

Are we, the gardeners of our camper's souls sufficiently tuned in to these subtle ways of communicating? Do we realize that jarring colour schemes hurt the soul, that the tone of voice speaks louder than the words it utters? Why do you think, does every tourist love Switzerland? It's not just the mountains. It's the trimness of the fields, the flowers in the windows, the neatly painted houses. Without a great deal of money, our camps could be made into little Switzerlands, not in order to impress parents on visitor's day, but because young souls are being watered and fed. Are we as camp directors too pre-occupied with facilities and programmes, are we too captivated by techniques of leadership, instead of the simple things like genuineness in staff and ourselves? Parents may be impressed by expensive equipment and elaborate facilities, kids are left cold by them. A highly developed campsite may prove to be a real handicap. When our camp was young, the campers derived great satisfaction from creating a new path or cutting trees for a new tent. Now it's all done. Fortunately we were able to buy some raw land nearby and the boys can be pioneers once again.

One thing which many directors consider very important is a highly trained staff. My own experience makes me question the importance of it. I am always suspicious when a staff application is accompanied by a long resume listing dozens of qualifications, courses taken, tests passed. In many cases such a person has done all the right things, he has earned his Bronze, his St John's First Aid badge, his Bushman's thong, but perhaps he has never taken the time to sit quietly by a brook to listen to the gay laughter of its ripples.

## The Importance of the Unimportant

(cont. from page 6.)

A good counsellor needs ears tuned to the ripples of a child. He needs more the ability to listen than the skill to teach. If a counsellor's time is too important to share in the discovery of some unimportant beetle, will he be good for the child's inner life?

I am old fashioned enough to think that cleaning the cabin and making the bed are not as unimportant as they are held to be by many. A child needs self-discipline and thrives on it. The American philosopher, William James said "First thing each morning we should do something which we have to force ourselves to do."

Camp should be as different from our daily life in the city as we can make it. In our camp we try strenuously to keep away from anything which resembles the city. We do our best to shun concrete and steel, arborite and wall board, plumbing and electricity, radios are completely outlawed. A change indeed is as good as a rest and the importance of these unimportant details must not be overlooked.

Most adults have had the misfortune of having their lively imagination stifled by the demands of time and circumstance. In Children, the imagination is still very much alive. A camp director is well advised to inject an element of mystery and makebelieve into his programme. There should be many surprises in store for him, events can be announced in imaginative ways dressing up has never lost its appeal for the child in youngsters and adults alike. With the bombardment from noise and the mass media, the imagination is frequently overlaid and buried. Camp is a good place to re-awaken it.

What I have been saying can have an important bearing on the role of the directors and the manner in which they spend their time. If it is true that these subtle influences are of the greatest importance, they might be wise to delegate all "important" things, like daily routines, maintenance, buying, etc. to some member of the staff. It might be the right thing

to keep themselves free for all those "unimportant" things, such as being free to talk to a camper on the path or tell a bedtime story to one little group. I found a poem in my files, I don't know where it came from and who wrote it but perhaps it will convey what I have laboured to say:

I took a piece of human clay  
And gently formed it day by day  
And molded with my skill and art  
A young child's soft and yielding heart.

It came again when days were gone  
It was a man I gazed upon  
The form I gave him still he bore  
But I could change him nevermore.



ALL CAMPERS' CLOTHING AND BELONGINGS should be marked for easy identification—losses are costly.

CAMP LINEN AND EQUIPMENT, TOO, should be marked to avoid confusion and loss.

NAMES OR NUMBERS CAN BE SUPPLIED.

Order CASH'S NAME TAPES from department stores and other dealers — or direct from

**CASH'S**  
**CANADA LABELS LIMITED**  
BOX 70, STATION 5  
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

#### PRINTED NAME PRICES

6 doz. \$3.20	9 doz. \$3.65
12 doz. \$4.50	24 doz. \$5.50

No C.O.D.s. Please mail cheque or money order.

Please include appropriate Provincial Sales Tax.

"Successful people don't believe in miracles, although many of them should."

- Jean Cocteau

# Special Report

John Bosco Camp has been situated on the shores of ZN Lake in the Nipawin Provincial Park for 18 years. In the past ten years since 1967, Bosco has served a total of 5,176 campers. Combining the figures for all the different camps in 1976 we come up with a total of 820 campers served by a total of 81 different staff and counsellors. Our camping Budget has trippled in the last five years.

Camper's fees merely cover the cost of feeding them for ten days; \$7.50 per day in '77. To make Bosco succeed financially each year we must rely on Community support.

On Sunday morning May 15th news was received that Bosco had been damaged by the recent forest fire that swept the area. After inspection of the damage a loss of \$62,177.48 in Buildings and contents was calcuted, \$32,210.00 of which was covered by insurance; leaving a total loss of \$29,967.48.

An emergency meeting of the St. John Bosco Camp Association was held in Aborfield on May 20th. There it was decided that Bosco would try to operate this summer.

Efforts were made to relocate Bosco on a permanent basis and carry out the summer's operation at a new site. A total of 256 man-hours were spent searching an area of about 1000 square miles for a suitable site. About 48 of the man-hours was spent searching by air, the rest by car, boat and on foot. No suitable site was found for immediate relocation.

Faced with this situation Bosco approached the Department of Northern Saskatchewan (DNS) for permission to relocate our intermediate tenting areas at Ispuchaw Lake,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from ZN Lake. This permission was granted. The DNS also offered the use of men and machinery to clean-up and renovate the ZN-Ispuchaw site.

Six tenting areas have been relocated to Ispuchaw and the senior programs, involving a close interaction with the wilderness, has been moved to more hospitable areas untouched by fire.

Nearly twenty-five major renovation projects at Bosco have been carried out, by DNS men and machines, White-Gull Training Centre volunteers and many supporters of Bosco who came up for weekend work parties.

Since this account was written, Mr. Dale Delainey, Bosco Public Relations officer reports that they have seen two groups of campers come and go. They have planted over 3000 little trees, and are in the midst of their third camp.

WE WISH THEM ALL SUCCESS!!!



## FOR THE COUNSELLORS

### ON BEING A LEADER

by D.R. Offord, M.D.

When I was a Counsellor, I despised talks on leadership. It wasn't that the speeches I heard were so bad. They mentioned honesty and responsibility and many other things that I knew already. The talks never got around to covering the essence of the core of what's involved in leadership. Maybe this sort of thing can never be communicated adequately in a speech such as this. The best I hope for is for you to think about some of the things I write and see whether they do indeed have any meaning for you. My hesitation in discussing leadership does not indicate that I think that the task of being a good counsellor is an unimportant one. I can not imagine a harder, or more important, job, than to be a camp counsellor. He, or she, can be something good in a boy's or a girl's life for the rest of his life. Not very many people can make that claim.

Now what's involved in being a leader? First, I suppose, is the desire to work with and understand children. This doesn't appeal to everyone, nor should it. There is nothing wrong with not wanting to be a counsellor. However, if you don't, it's silly, because of pressures outside of yourself, whether they come from home, parents or friends to go to camp.

Counselling is not a job that you can learn to do well overnight. It involves, in part, enjoying your campers and letting them enjoy you. It involves too, attempting to see the world through your camper's eyes. You can remember what it was like being 9, 10, or 11 (better than I can remember that age) and you can recall also how much it meant to you to have someone really understand you, and be able to share your world. Being a good counsellor involves asking for help sometimes from people you trust. You might have gained the impression that if you are really going to be a good counsellor, your kids will be well-behaved and you will never need any outside assistance. This is just not true! Some cabins where the kids are the best behaved are the cabins very very little of any lasting learning has gone on between the counsellor and his cabin group.

Some campers are extremely difficult for anyone to handle. In general, there are two groups of children that come to a camp. The first group are kids who have very satisfactory homes in an emotional sense. They feel "good in their own skins" about themselves. They come to camp to have something added to their lives. If they could put it into words, one of them would say, "I want to go to camp because I want to learn how to swim better, more about camp craft, more about canoeing, etc. My counsellor and I will get along fine and I'll probably end up wanting to be like him." A kid like this is a joy to have around. He acts toward you in the way you expect.

There is a second, smaller group of children who come to a camp. They consist of children for whom everything hasn't gone just right in an emotional sense. They arrive on your door step, or rather your cabin step, with some needs that really should have been looked after long before they got to camp. If they could put it into words, they would say, "Look, I really haven't had everything I should have had early in my life, and I want the camp and you to make up for a lot of this. If you and the camp don't realize this, I am going to be hard to handle. You are going to

(cont. on page 10)

have a lot of trouble teaching me new things."

"I may like my counsellor, but I probable won't be able to show him that. In fact, the more I like him, the worse I'll behave, maybe." This type of child is just not easy to deal with and they are present in all camps. It's hard to understand what's beneath their behavior. This is the kind of camper with whom you can welcome some help. Through this sort of experience, you have an opportunity to learn a good deal; not only about the child, but about yourself.

You may feel, sometimes, that to be a good counsellor, you must have the same amount of affection for each of your campers. But, you just can't do that, can you? Because some of your campers will be a lot more likeable to you than others. You don't have to apologize for that! It may be that you'll like the shy children because you are shy yourself. It may be that campers that swim well appeal to you because you pride yourself in your swimming ability. It may be that you enjoy easy outgoing, active kids because this is the part of you that you admire.

When you are honest about your feelings about your campers., it gives you a better chance to treat them fairly. You begin to see for yourself too, whether there is something (always the same things) about some campers, or about staff, or about people in general which you really dislike, and which really "bugs" you. You want to check to see whether this isn't something which you just don't like in yourself. if that's true, the realization of this may make it easier for you to get along with these campers, or with staff members, and to live with less strain with that part of yourself. In addition, you may find that some days you are a much better counsellor than others. That's natural. It's worthwhile to let you kids know when you feel you've been a poor counsellor so that they begin to realize that you too have good days and bad days.

Your campers will really look up to you as a counsellor. They will want to be like you in many ways. Part of being a leader is talking to you campers about yourself. You can let them know what it is like to be all through 9 or 10, and instead, being 18 and older. Campers will be interested in knowing that you have the same kind of feelings that they have. Imagine a big guy, or a grownup girl, being scared, being depressed, or being fed-up. Your campers feel all these things and it is comforting for them to know that their leaders share these feelings. You may feel that as a counsellor, there are many parts of your life, and many parts of the world that just don't satisfy you; but, if you can be a good counsellor it will give you the feeling, rightly so, that there is something very worthwhile about you, and something worthy of respect about you.

Part of being a leader is not to lead too much. You probably remember, as campers, that the counsellors you liked were the ones that didn't tell you to do things so much, but respected, and acted on, your opinions about what you wanted to do. When planning programme, your campers will have many ideas of their own. Use them. The kids in your cabin will like it when you are enthusiastic about about a programme. However, it is hard for you to be enthusiastic about a programme if it looks like a dud to you. Maybe it is a real dud. If you think so, you should let whoever is planning the programme know what you think, in hopes that changes can be made so you can honestly believe in, and be enthusiastic about, the programme. In fact, I suggest that you should insist with the senior staff and the Camp Director that you play an important part in the planning of programme, that your ideas are taken seri-

(cont. on page 11)

## On Being a Leader

(cont. from page 10:)

ously about the future direction of the camp, and that if you return, year after year, your experiences should be different and richer each summer.

When children misbehave they need limits, that's for sure. They also need a chance to put what they feel into words. This is what you convey as a leader, that it is not just controlling a camper's behavior, but with his help, understanding what is behind it. You value not denying a child's feelings but accepting them. Any one of your campers has a right to be angry but he doesn't have the right to hit someone every time he feels that way. Every one of your campers has a right to be scared, but that doesn't mean he has to back away from all scary things. Every one of your campers has the right to feel sad, but that doesn't mean he has to close everyone out when they try to help him.

A good leader should know his camping skills. This is something you can learn if you don't already feel competent in these areas. Mastering these skills is a joy in itself; and, in addition, it gives you an added advantage in being able to be of service to your campers. Your experience in being able to teach non-swimmers, for instance, can be of more help to a shy child who wants to learn to swim than a lot of talk about the fact that he is shy. So it is your responsibility to know your camping skills, and if you don't, to find someone who can help you learn them.

When you are a good counsellor, your campers will want more of you. It is worthwhile to keep in touch with them throughout the winter months. You can initiate this because they may be too shy. You can end up having a lasting relationship with some of your campers which will extend into adulthood - yours and theirs.

Everybody has lots of advice for potential leaders, and I am sure some of you must end up feeling that the way to leadership is to be just like somebody else who is a good leader. I would vote against this. Each of you has had many experiences which were valuable learning situations, and that's worth a lot. I would hesitate to "cash in" your uniqueness for a photostatic copy of someone else.

Leadership has more to do with your sensitivity than your athletic ability, more to do with honesty about yourself than your school performance, and lastly, more to do with a genuine desire to be of service to children than with an outstanding ability in camping skills.

## **Maintenance**

Privies Wood ashes from your fireplace are still one of the most effective agents in reducing the "mass" in outdoor toilets.

"Wescodyne" is tamed chlorine and, in a diluted form is an excellent cleaner and disinfectant. It has a residual factor which most others do not.

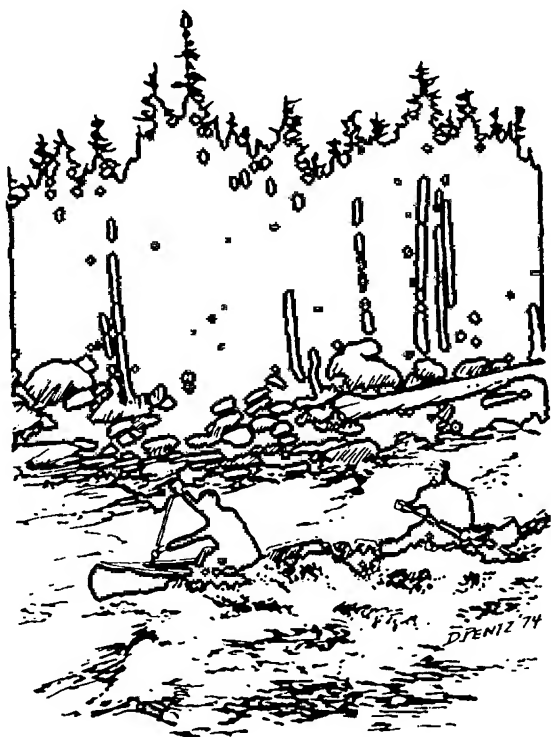
"Please put me down" - carefully printed on the bottom of toilet seat lids encourages camper to do so.

### Cover new buildings with old

If you are putting up a new building or recovering an old one, use barn board. Don't stain it, just let it be. You have now one less building to cosmetically recover.

### Shingles

Often you can get "seconds" in cedar shakes. Use them to cover buildings. They last and you don't have to paint them either.



## TRIPPING TIPS

Billy Pails - make your own from 105 oz. tins left from the kitchen. Coat hanger wire is great for making handles.

Cups - try stackable soft vinyl tumblers - they are easy to pack, inexpensive and easier to carry. Note: for hot drinks just fill them half full, then they're not "too hot to handle."

Waterproofing Packs - Use green garbage bags inside your pack or over the sleeping bag inside the pack. This ensures a dry bed even in wet weather.

Gunney Sacks - can be made very reasonably from "factory cotton". Use different sizes to pack any dried soft foods. Put the food in a used bread bag, then in the gunney sack for extra protection against wetness

ISSI 008-3119

canadian camping association  
association des camps du canada  
SUITE 203, 102 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST  
TORONTO, ONTARIO M4P 1E1

